

# CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN 2 0 0 1 - 2 0 0 2

*Congressman Cal Dooley continues to bring to policy debates in Washington the Valley tradition of bridging partisan lines to get things done. As a leader in the centrist New Democrat movement in Congress, Dooley is playing a leadership role in shaping fiscal policy, trade, education and technology issues, and he is working to make sure that the national economy grows and that Valley residents are better able to participate in that growth. Congressman Dooley's priorities for his 2001-2002 term representing the Valley in Congress include the following agenda items to directly benefit the Central Valley:*

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

- Develop Central Valley Empowerment Initiative
- Advance Responsible Tax Relief
- Build Economic Links Between Central Valley and Silicon Valley

## THE VALLEY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

- Secure Funds to Construct Fresno Courthouse
- Expand Investment in Lemoore NAS
- Secure Federal Support for Valley Transportation Network

## SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Increase Investment in Meth Problem
- Fund More Afterschool Centers
- Advance Farmworker Transportation Pilot Project

## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

- Expand Valley Water Supply
- Increase Access to Foreign Markets
- Ensure Valley Priorities Reflected in 2002 Farm Bill
- Encourage Coalition Support for Guestworker Compromise

## BETTER SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

- Advance Principles of "Three R's" School Reform Bill
- Expand Access to Health Care
- Enhance Medicare Reimbursements and Drug Coverage

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## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

### Develop Central Valley Empowerment Initiative

- Build on successful effort in 2000 to convince President Clinton to designate a unique federal government task force focusing on Valley development by increasing awareness of the Valley's needs within the Bush Administration.
- Secure the creation of a designated grant application writer position, funded by the federal government, designed to help Valley communities more easily apply for federal economic development grants.
- Oversee development of "preferential treatment" guidelines for use by federal agencies reviewing grant applications from Valley communities.

### Advance Responsible Tax Relief

- Continue support for elimination of the estate tax.
- Help advance fiscally responsible tax relief to stimulate economic growth, while continuing to maintain debt reduction as the highest fiscal priority.

### Build Economic Links Between Central Valley and Silicon Valley

- Convene a Central Valley-Silicon Valley summit, bringing high-tech CEOs and industry leaders to the Central Valley to expose them to local workforce and resources.
- Work with local leaders and community colleges to develop a marketing plan aimed at increasing Silicon Valley awareness of the Central Valley's workforce and potential for economic growth.

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## THE VALLEY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

### Secure Funds to Construct Fresno Federal Courthouse

- Create and co-chair congressional Courthouse Caucus to advocate for full appropriations funding of courthouse construction program.
- Increase awareness within the Bush Administration of the pressing need for the new Fresno Federal Courthouse and continue to lead Valley delegation in fighting for courthouse funding.

### Expand Investment in Lemoore Naval Air Station

- In recognition of the role of Lemoore Naval Air Station plays in the Kings County economy, increase federal investment in LNAS facilities (including housing, recreational, and flight support facilities) to ensure the base's continued future operation.

### Secure Federal Support for Valley Transportation Network

- Support efforts to widen Highway 46 in Kern County to increase safety along the critical east-west passage, and work with Department of Transportation officials to reduce review period that could delay project.
- After securing \$35 million last year to extend Highway 180 in Fresno County west to I-5, work with state officials to accelerate construction timeline for project.
- Work with Fresno officials and community leaders to identify possible solutions to the challenge of the BNSF rail tracks bisecting central Fresno.

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## SAFE COMMUNITIES

### Increase Investment in Meth Problem

- Lead Valley congressional delegation in petitioning FBI, DEA and Customs Service administrators to increase number of federal agents devoted to fighting drugs in Valley and eliminate current shortage of officers compared to other regions of California.
- Draw increased attention to challenge of meth treatment by co-hosting a second Valley meth summit with Sen. Barbara Boxer, focusing on treatment for persons addicted to meth and aimed at increasing support for treatment programs.
- Along with Senator Boxer, take the lead in introducing legislation in Congress to support meth treatment programs by doubling federal grant funding for drug “treatment-on-demand” programs for addicts who voluntarily seek treatment.
- Increase funding for Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area to \$5 million in 2002, after having successfully advocated for funding increases the past two years.
- Work to identify funding sources within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the cleanup of meth labs on agricultural land.

### Fund More Afterschool Centers

- Continue funding support for 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Learning Centers, which provide important after school enrichment and safe activities for Central Valley students.

### Advance Farmworker Transportation Pilot Project

- After securing \$3 million in seed money in 2000 for the Farmworker Transportation Services Pilot Project, work with federal and state agencies to ensure successful implementation of the program. Work to increase federal funding through the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program.

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## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

### Expand Valley Water Supply

- Help in developing a comprehensive solution to challenge of drainage on the Valley's west side.
- Assist in brokering a solution to the conflict over San Joaquin River water between east side and west side water interests.
- Work to secure a more reliable water supply for the agricultural lands at Lemoore NAS.
- Build on past success in expanding water storage by securing additional funding to expand storage at Lake Success and Lake Kaweah.

### Increase Access to Foreign Markets

- Expand market access for Valley agricultural products by working with the Bush Administration to increase trade opportunities in central and South America and create the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
- Work with a bipartisan coalition in Congress to grant Fast Track trade negotiating authority to the President, to ensure swifter and more effective trade negotiations, and expand political consensus for trade by encouraging consideration of labor and environmental concerns.
- Play a leading role in reforming trade sanctions policy and shaping agreements for expanded trade with Jordan, Vietnam, Singapore and Chile.

### Ensure Valley Priorities Reflected in 2002 Farm Bill

- As agricultural research is the cornerstone of Valley agriculture's sustained strength, enhance federal investment in research to identify emerging technologies.
- Expand foreign market opportunities for Valley crops by strengthening Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), which promote American crops abroad.
- Increase funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to ensure effective detection of crop-threatening pests and diseases.

### Encourage Coalition Support for Guestworker Compromise

- Continue to work with grower community and farmworker community to find a solution to the Valley's agricultural labor challenges.

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## BETTER SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

### Advance Principles of “Three R’s” School Reform Bill

- Increase Title I investment in neediest schools by 50 percent, to \$13 billion annually.
- Consolidate 50 federal education programs into five funding streams to provide more flexibility and local control, while demanding more accountability and imposing greater consequences for lack of improvement in student achievement.
- Put a new focus on student results by linking federal education funding to gains in student achievement.
- Expand access to classroom technology by maintaining funding for e-rate and increasing high-speed internet access.

### Expand Access to Health Care

- Continue bipartisan legislative effort to expand access to health insurance by providing low- and middle-income families with refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance.
- Re-introduce bipartisan legislation to increase health care access by reducing the regulatory burden on employee associations that offer health plans and allowing plans to operate under a more streamlined set of rules.
- Increase availability of Healthy Families program by working to enroll more children in the program and supporting increased participation in the program by children’s families.

### Enhance Medicare Reimbursements and Drug Coverage

- Advance bipartisan legislation to address reimbursement rate formula discrepancy for Medicare HMO’s in rural areas.
- Support plans to provide affordable, reliable, and optional prescription drug coverage as part of Medicare.